

good sport and looking so dapper today in his brand-new Crimson Tide tie and attire. What an addition to your wardrobe.

I urge my colleagues to please join me in celebrating the achievements of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide and its outstanding athletes on their 2011 BCS championship victory.

Roll Tide.

MAKE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, when the 112th Congress was sworn in on January 5, 2011, I, along with many of my fellow Republicans, voted to change the status quo.

Instead of escalating spending, we have made and pushed for significant spending cuts. Instead of forcing a trillion dollar government takeover of health care on the American people, we voted to repeal it in the House. Instead of imposing costly and burdensome regulations on an already struggling business economy, we passed legislation to reverse overly burdensome regulations so businesses can get back to hiring again.

These are the vows we made to our constituents when we took office a year ago. And despite hitting numerous snags in the do-nothing Senate and with leadership lacking in the White House, we delivered on the promises.

In the past year, the House has passed 27 job-creating measures as part of our plan for American job creators. We have remained committed to removing the onerous taxes and regulations that are crippling small business and our families and are the cause for so much distrust of Washington. We have begun an honest conversation about which programs are in alignment with our constitutional principles and which programs are wasteful and inefficient.

We have the responsibility to make the Federal Government live within its means, just like hardworking families across the country. This means we have to cut spending, stop raising taxes, and eliminate wasteful spending from our outdated, overreaching government programs.

When we took office last January, we vowed to reduce discretionary spending to 2008 levels, and we delivered. The House passed a bill to reduce spending by \$5.8 trillion over the next 10 years. We also voted to cut over 100 programs across government and save billions of dollars in the process. In May, the House also overwhelmingly voted against giving President Obama a blank check to increase the debt limit without spending reductions or reforms.

We have relentlessly fought for policies that will encourage job creation and free our families from the burdensome economic problems of govern-

ment regulation. We acted to undo duplicative permitting requirements for farmers by passing the Reduced Regulatory Burdens Act. We pushed back against the President's attempts to implement a cap-and-trade policy—an energy reduction policy, really—through the regulatory process by passing the Energy Tax Prevention Act. And we confronted the EPA's costly and burdensome agenda by passing three regulatory reform bills that safeguard our environment while keeping Americans at work.

On November 16, we defeated the 3 percent withholding rule by passing H.R. 674. This misguided tax rule would have required government agencies at all levels to withhold 3 percent of their payments to businesses for goods and services. Any small business that contracts with the government would have their profit margins wiped out if such a rule were allowed to take effect.

We passed the REINS Act, to bring accountability to the executive branch by requiring that government bureaucrats receive permission from Congress, the elected representatives of the people, before the implementation of any major regulation.

Just 2 weeks after beginning our work in Congress, the House voted to repeal the overreaching, costly, and harmful government takeover of health care that President Obama forced upon the American people. H.R. 2 was one of my first votes after being sworn in. The bill cut new spending by \$1.4 trillion over 10 years and repealed the President's health care takeover, and I was proud to vote to repeal this job-killing law which will do nothing to bring stability and certainty to American families.

Throughout the first session of the 112th Congress, House Republicans have remained committed to changing the way the government does business. We've delivered on our promises to pass legislation that reins in spending and encourages job creation. Going forward, I'm hopeful that our friends in the Senate and the leadership in the White House will finally be ready to join us in passing legislation that the American people want and not let dozens of job-producing bills sit idle in the Senate.

This year, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House as we look beyond the next election and focus on improving people's lives and creating a brighter economic future with the freedom God really intended for all of us.

□ 1020

STOP PIPA AND SOPA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. PIPA, Protect Intellectual Property Act; SOPA, Stop Online Piracy Act. Now, who could be against bills like that, to prevent the

theft of intellectual property or online piracy, to prevent online piracy. Clever names, great. Content, not so much.

Now, the worst, organized, government-sanctioned theft of intellectual property in the world goes on day in and day out in Communist China. And this government has done precious little to rein that in. We run a huge trade deficit with China. We're buying their goods. They are dependent upon our purchasing of their goods. And yet we allow them to get away with that. This bill does nothing to deal with the organized theft in Communist China, which is the greatest problem that confronts us in the theft of intellectual property.

Now, concealed behind these really benign names and embedded in the text is something that's kind of like what we call malware. Now, we all know what malware can do to our computers. We've seen it; the black screen of death. Well, this is a little bigger than malware that gets on your computer, steals your data, or crashes your computer. It could crash the entire Internet and the productivity of the Internet.

Now, eventually this legislation could threaten the existence of an entire domain because of one blog entry, one user link. A whole domain could be taken down. Wow. That's pretty incredible. Imagine how some of these user-content sites are going to have to try and police things.

Well, they can always err on the side of censorship because there are broad provisions in this bill to allow you in good faith to censor something because you thought maybe it was a problem. So they could start censoring rather dramatically. The legislation also includes very broad language for so-called anti-circumvention, that is any site that provides information that could—could, maybe, possibly—help users get around censorship would be a target. Well, that's kind of an interesting contradiction for the government of the United States because actually we promote through the State Department software that helps democratic activists in Communist China, which I already mentioned, and in Iran and other vicious dictatorships around the world to get around their government's online censorship. We're now going to enshrine principles that would allow this sort of censorship, sort of mimicking some of the actions of the Iranian and the Communist Chinese, I guess, in regards to the Internet here. Of course, we're going to allow private companies to impose this censorship instead of the government imposing this censorship; but they would have government enforcement behind their actions, the private right of actions that would be allowed in this bill.

This is pretty extraordinary legislation, very poorly drafted. If you didn't care about the Internet, if it didn't exist and you wanted to put in the toughest possible protections theoretically for piracy and intellectual property, maybe you'd write something like

this. But there's a better way to go than to kill the Internet at the same time as you're trying to get at these few bad actors that are out there, let alone the state bad actors, like China.

I'd love to see a bill drafted to take on the Chinese on their multi-billion-dollar annual theft of intellectual property from the United States. Everybody says we can't take on China; no, they're too big. So instead, we'll go after small, creative people who could tread across this line unknowingly who are participating in a much larger site. They have their blog as part of that site or they have their post as part of that site. The whole site could be taken down.

This legislation, I'm pleased to say, that it seems like the White House has woken up to the dangers here; the fact that we are essentially creating the PATRIOT Act national security letter provisions for private companies to censor the Internet. We cannot let that happen. We must stop this legislation. We also need to take on meaningfully piracy and the theft of intellectual property.

OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

During the Christmas break, I wrote a letter to President Obama expressing outrage over the fact that Afghan President Karzai again snubbed our country and our men and women in uniform by signing an oil contract with China. How much more do the American people have to sacrifice with their young men and women? How many more young men and women have to walk the countryside of Afghanistan and have a leg or arm blown off, or killed, so Mr. Karzai can continue to say to Uncle Sam: We don't need you, but you've got to stay here so I can cut all these deals with these foreign countries.

In a December 8, 2010, Washington Post article, while meeting with General Petraeus and former Ambassador Eikenberry, President Karzai said: I have three main enemies—the Taliban, the United States, and the international community. Karzai further stated: If I had to choose sides today, I'd choose the Taliban.

Yes, young men and women in uniform, thank you for what you're doing; but it's time to bring you home.

In a November 14, 2010, interview with the Washington Post, Karzai said that he wanted American troops off the roads and out of Afghan homes and that the long-term presence of so many foreign soldiers would only worsen the war.

Very seldom do I say: Thank you, Mr. Karzai, you're exactly right.

March 12, 2011, New York Times: "I request that NATO and American sol-

diers should stop these operations on our soil. This war is not on our soil. If this war is against terror, then this war is not here. Terror is not here." Mr. Karzai, president of Afghanistan.

In October of 2011 during a television interview, President Karzai stated: "If ever there is a war between Pakistan and America, Afghanistan will side with the Pakistanis."

Why are we still there spending \$10 billion a month and saying to the American people: We're going to cut your school programs; we're going to cut your bridge programs; we're going to cut your road programs? American people, we don't have the money, but somehow, we have \$10 billion a month to send to Mr. Karzai.

This little boy beside me is named Tyler Jordan. In 2003, his father, Gunny Sergeant Phillip Jordan, was killed in Iraq. I've spoken to his mom, Amanda. She lives in Connecticut. I've asked her about Tyler. I've had this picture since 2003. She says he still misses his daddy. He will always miss his father.

Bin Laden is dead. Al Qaeda has been dispersed all over the world. I hope the American people will call their Members of Congress in both parties and say: Get our troops out of Afghanistan. Do not wait until 2014, 2015. I don't know how many more will have to die for a corrupt leader named Karzai.

We have won. Bin Laden is dead. We have won. Declare victory and bring them home.

God, continue to bless our men and women in uniform. Bless the families who've given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And God, please continue to bless America. We're in great need of Your guidance, dear God. God bless America.

□ 1030

POVERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me just say to the prior gentleman who spoke, Mr. JONES, that I appreciate him continuing to call for the end of the war and occupation of Afghanistan and bringing our young men and women home because, of course, we know that this war has created undue hardship, so many deaths, and really has been the longest war in our lifetime. And so thank you, Mr. JONES, for your leadership.

I am the founder of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, and I just have to rise today on behalf of the caucus to continue to talk about the tide of poverty that is sweeping our country.

As we begin now the second session of the 112th Congress, we must do more to help the millions of Americans living in poverty, looking hard for a job, and working hard every day to move up the ladder of opportunity and earn their share of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, on January 4, The New York Times reported that economic

mobility—the ability to work hard and make your fortune from humble beginnings, which is the fundamental cornerstone of the American Dream—is getting harder and harder to achieve in America. Americans have fallen behind and are increasingly cut off from their dreams of having a job and supporting their families.

How in the world did this happen? The failed policies of the past administration only helped the richest among us become richer and concentrated greater wealth into the hands of a wealthy few. And today, House Republican leadership has failed to address the needs of most Americans.

The only way that our economy can recover and reduce poverty is to create jobs and to expand access to the economic opportunities. We find that the lack of opportunity and economic mobility is worse at the bottom, and without a real commitment to change, it will only get worse.

The Republican-led Congress has been too beholden to their extremist Tea Party base to reach the necessary compromises to move our Nation forward and to begin the hard work of rebuilding and growing our economy for all Americans.

Now, President Obama did stop the economy from going off a cliff, and Congress must work with the President to put our Nation back on the road to recovery and growth.

We continue to have unacceptably high unemployment, and we all know that the rates of unemployment and the rates of poverty in our minority communities continue to be about twice the national average. But even these painful and these shameful statistics may not completely show just how much Wall Street has focused their efforts on stripping communities of color of the little wealth that they have managed to accumulate over the last few decades.

The Pew Research Center found that minority households were hit disproportionately hard by the housing and financial crisis. The Pew Center found that from 2005 to 2009, median wealth fell by 66 percent among Hispanic households and 53 percent among black households, compared with just 16 percent among white households. As a result of these declines, the typical African American household now has, mind you, just \$5,677 in wealth; the typical Hispanic household has \$6,300 in wealth; and the typical white household has \$113,000 in net worth.

So the facts speak for themselves. Wall Street targeted minority homeowners and minority communities, and we must respond accordingly.

It is long past time that we as a Nation enact bold programs and policies that ensure that we are a Nation that truly does provide equal opportunity and access to the American Dream rather than allowing, for example, minorities to be targeted for policies and programs that undermine their ability to achieve the American Dream. We